

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1 in step (e)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the small lumps formed in step (d) are cooled to a temperature from 40° [-] to 50°C.
5. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1 in step (d)~~ according to claim 13, wherein ~~the outlet material from cooler is slaked in water to obtain slurry in the concentration range of 15 to 23% by weight with~~ step (f) comprises continuous agitation for up to one hour at maximum 120 RPM to convert calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide.
6. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1 in step (f)~~ according to claim 13, wherein ~~the said slaked lime slurry is subjected to carbonation, bypassing there through sufficient quantity of a gas comprising carbon dioxide – air mixture in step (i) comprises 25% carbon dioxide in air to adjust the pH of the suspension to mere neutral, in a and the carbonation reactor is provided with a purger.~~
7. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1 in step (f)~~ according to claim 13, wherein ~~the slurry in the carbonation reactor is maintained at a temperature of carbonation is preferably in the range of from 30 to 45°C until the pH of the slurry becomes neutral.~~

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1 in step (g)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the precipitated ~~product~~ material is ~~separated~~ separated in step (k) ~~preferably~~ by filtration or centrifugation.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently amended) A process ~~as claimed in claim 1 in step (i)~~ according to claim 13, further comprising prior to step (k), the step of: wherein treating the slurry of the product ~~is optionally treated with an emulsion of fatty acid derivative for coating to obtain a product having industrial applications~~ slurry of coated calcium carbonate.
12. (Cancelled).
13. (New) A process for the production of precipitated calcium carbonate from a calcium carbonate-rich by-product of an industrial processes, the claimed process comprising:
- (a) continuously feeding a wet calcium carbonate-rich by-product into a calciner to generate calcined material;
wherein the calcium carbonate-rich by-product:
contains up to 25% moisture,
has a particle size from 20 to 150 microns, and
is fed to the calciner at a feed rate from about 5 to 20 kg/h; and
wherein the calciner
is maintained at a temperature from 850° C to 950° C,
has an angle of inclination of about 1.08 degrees, and
has a shell rotation speed from 0.5 to 2.0 RPM;
- (b) routing water vapor, carbon dioxide, ammonia and NO_x gas liberated from the calcium carbonate-rich by-product in the calciner to a scrubber, wherein ammonia and NO_x gasses are scrubbed with water;

- (c) after a residence time in the calciner from 30 to 90 minutes, outputting the calcined material at a rate from 2.0 to 10.0 kg/hour to a crusher;
- (d) crushing the calcined material into small lumps using said crusher;
- (e) cooling the small lumps to near ambient temperature in a cooler;
- (f) slaking the cooled lumps with water in a slaker provided with an agitator rotating at a maximum speed of 120 RPM to produce a hydrated lime slurry having a solids content from 15 to 23% by weight;
- (g) removing heavy particles from the hydrated lime slurry by sedimentation, by wet sieving through a 60 to 100 mesh sieve, or by both sedimentation and wet sieving;
- (h) diluting the slurry with water to a solids content in the range from 10 to 20% by weight;
- (i) feeding the diluted slurry to a carbonation reactor and subjecting the slurry to a carbonation reaction wherein a carbon dioxide – air mixture containing from 25 to 75% by volume carbon dioxide is passed through the slurry at a superficial gas velocity from 10 to 15 cm/sec;
- (j) maintaining the slurry in the carbonation reactor at a temperature in the range from 25 to 45° C until the pH of the slurry becomes neutral;
- (k) separating solids precipitated from the carbonation reaction; and
- (l) drying and pulverizing the separated solids to obtain precipitated calcium carbonate having a purity of greater than 97%, a brightness of greater than 96%, a bulk density of 0.40 to 0.65 g/mL and an average particle size of about 5 to 20 microns, wherein 100% of the particles are less than 20 microns.